

---

**FW: AUKE BAY WHALE BOAT DAMAGES AND DANGERS**

---

**From:** Richard Harris  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2026 11:39 AM  
**To:** City Clerk <[City.Clerk@juneau.gov](mailto:City.Clerk@juneau.gov)>  
**Subject:** AUKE BAY WHALE BOAT DAMAGES AND DANGERS

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

To all members of the Visitor Industry Task Force,

I am writing to express concern about the damage being caused by the increasing number and size of whale-watching boats that race through Auke Bay daily throughout the summer. The constant traffic and large wakes are creating significant wear and tear on private docks throughout the area, including ours off Fox Farm Trail Road.

Our docks are normally well protected from waves and surge, and most smaller vessels passing through the area slow down out of courtesy. However, during the tourist season, the volume and size of commercial boats have grown to the point where wakes of 3–4 feet from the northwest are now occurring almost continuously from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. This has made it difficult—and at times unsafe—for older residents to walk up and down the docks.

Over the years, we have observed that the ferry system travels at reduced speeds until it has passed Suedla Island and South Coghlan Island, and as a result, its wake does not impact our location. We believe a similar standard should apply to larger vessels. Specifically, we ask that all boats over 40 feet be required to limit their speed and wake until they are beyond Suedla Island and South Coghlan Island.

This request is reasonable given the safety concerns for those using the docks and the ongoing damage being caused by excessive wakes. We appreciate your attention to this matter and hope to see steps taken to protect both residents and infrastructure in Auke Bay.

Richard Harris

Auke Bay Resident

